**SLP Traveling Baseball Social Media Policy**

This policy shall apply to all coaches, players, parents, guardians or other persons associated with St. Louis Park Traveling Baseball (SLPTB) regarding use of social media. This policy applies to the above participants on and off of the field. **The goal of SLPTB is to ensure that its participants – coaches, players, parents, guardians, fans, etc. – maintain the highest standard of sportsmanship and ethical behavior at all times.** Adherence to this policy shall be a condition for continued participation in the SLPTB program. A parent/guardian is required to acknowledge this policy in writing and inform the participating player of the policy. This policy will be included in the SLPTB Codes of Conduct for Players, Parents and Coaches, respectively, and must be acknowledged in writing and collected by the SLPTB Board President before the team’s first practice.

**We take seriously and will address all inappropriate use of social media.**

***"Social Media"*** is defined to include: Web sites, Web logs (blogs), wikis, social networks (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Flickr, YouTube, etc.), online forums, virtual worlds, text messages, email and any other social media generally available to the public or consumers.

***"Inappropriate Communication"*** is defined to include: any statement, comment, assertion, posting, communication or message of any type that serves to harass, threaten, bully, denigrate, defame, disparage, belittle or impugn the character of the SLPTB Association or any players, parents, guardians, coaches, umpires, volunteers or board members associated with SLPTB.

**REQUIREMENTS**

All participants in SLPTB are expected to serve as positive ambassadors of our organization, and they should remember that they are role models to the players. Because readers of social media networks may view the participant as a representative of SLPTB, SLPTB requires participants to observe the following rules:

1. Use of any social media network and postings, displays or communications on any social media network must comply with all state and federal laws, any SLPTB policies and the SLPTB Codes of Conduct for Players, Parents and Coaches.
2. Participants must be respectful and professional in all communications (by word, image or other means) via Social Media. In keeping with this basic expectation of respect and professionalism, participants in SLPTB must refrain at all times from (i) engaging in any Inappropriate Communication via Social Media; (ii) using obscene, profane or vulgar language via Social Media; or (iii) promoting unlawful activity, including unlawful acts relating to alcohol, controlled substances or sexual misconduct.
3. Participants may not act as a spokesperson for SLPTB except as authorized by the SLPTB Board.
4. When authorized as a spokesperson for SLPTB, participants must disclose their relationship with SLPTB.
5. Participants may not disclose information on any social media network that is confidential or proprietary to SLPTB, its players, parents, coaches, umpires, etc., or that is protected by data privacy laws.
6. Participants will be held responsible for the disclosure, whether purposeful or inadvertent, of confidential or private information, information that violates the privacy rights or other rights of a third party, or the content of anything posted on any social media network or internet site as it relates to SLPTB.
7. Anything related to SLPTB posted on a participant's Web site or Web log or other internet content for which the participant is responsible will be subject to all SLPTB policies, rules, regulations or guidelines as amended from time to time.

**VIOLATION**

**A SLPTB participant who is responsible for a social media network posting that fails to comply with the rules set forth in this policy may be subject to discipline as outlined in the SLPTB Code of Conduct for Players, Parents and Coaches.**

**SLPTB GUIDELINES**

If you are a participant contributing to blogs, wikis, social networks, virtual worlds or any other kind of social media, below is a list of guidelines to reference. We expect all who participate in social media to understand and adhere to these guidelines. Failure to do so could result in disciplinary action. These guidelines will be updated as necessary to reflect any technology advances or social media platform changes. Please visit the SLPTB website for current information.

**It’s your responsibility.** You are ultimately responsible for what you write. If it seems inappropriate, use caution. Any posted or published content is widely accessible and continuously available so consider the content carefully. Trademark, copyright and fair use requirements must be respected.

**Ensure the safety of the players.** When participants choose to join or engage in the social networking groups, they do so as an ambassador of SLPTB and have the responsibility for monitoring content and addressing inappropriate behavior or activity on these networks. This includes acting to protect the safety of minors online.

**Be transparent.** Your honesty—or dishonesty—will be quickly noticed in the social media environment. If you are posting about your involvement, use your real name and identify your relationship with SLPTB. Be clear about your role. If you have a vested interest in a topic you are discussing, be the first to address it.

**Protect confidential information.** Be thoughtful about what you publish. You must make sure you do not disclose or use confidential information. Players, parents, coaches and other participants should not be cited or obviously referenced without their approval. For example, ask permission before posting someone’s picture in a social network or publishing a conversation that was meant to be private.

**Respect your audience and other participants.** Always express ideas and opinions in a respectful manner. Make sure your communications are tactful. Do not denigrate or insult others. Remember that our communities reflect a diverse set of customs, values and points of view.

**Keep your cool**. One of the aims of social media is to create dialogue and people will not always agree on an issue. When confronted with a difference of opinion, stay cool. Sometimes, it’s best to ignore a comment and not give it credibility by acknowledging it with a response.

**Be careful with personal information.** Make full use of privacy settings. Know how to disable anonymous postings and use moderating tools on your social media sites.

**Be a positive role model.**

**PROCESS**

Board meetings are open to all members. If you have an issue, please contact a board member, and we will add the concern to the agenda discussion. As an organization, we value being transparent and welcoming. Board meeting notices and Board minutes are always published on our website.

If your experience is a matter of integrity or safety, please alert a board member as soon as possible so that the board may address the matter in a timelymanner.

**SLP Traveling Board**

**Slptravelingbaseball.org**